

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 207141
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 207141

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, IS

SUBJECT:MESSAGE TO BEGIN ON SETTLEMENTS

REF: STATE 204867

FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN'S REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE OF AUGUST 14, AS
DELIVERED BY ISRAELI EMBASSY AUGUST 15. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF AUGUST 14TH WHICH
REACHED ME FIRST THING THIS MORNING UPON MY RETURN FROM
SECRET

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A BRIEF BUT FINE VACATION.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR MESSAGE WAS WRITTEN BEFORE OUR CABINET
RESOLVED TO SUSPEND ALL DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO THE FIVE
PROPOSED NAHAL SETTLEMENTS UNTIL AFTER THE CAMP DAVID
MEETING.

I WISH TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY, MR. SECRETARY, TO INFORM
YOU OF TWO BASIC FACTS:

--A) NAHAL IS A FORMATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES.

--B) THE MOST RECENT DECISION TO ESTABLISH FIVE NEW NAHAL
OUTPOSTS IN THE JORDAN VALLEY WAS ORIGINALLY TAKEN ON
JUNE 18, SEVEN WEEKS BEFORE THE IDEA OF THE FORTHCOMING
TRIPARTITE MEETING WAS CONCEIVED.

I AM INFORMED THAT CERTAIN COMMENTATORS IN THE U.S.
MEDIA HAVE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT ISRAEL, BY ITS
ALLEGED ACTS, WAS ACTUALLY SEEKING TO TORPEDO THE
CAMP DAVID MEETING. YOU WILL PERCEIVE FROM THE FACTS,
MR. SECRETARY, THAT NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE
TRUTH. AND TRUTH, AS ALWAYS, WILL PREVAIL.

MAY I REPEAT TO YOU MY PROFOUND CONVICTION THAT WHILST
I BELIEVE ALL OF THE THREE COUNTRIES CONCERNED ARE IN-
TERESTED IN THE SUCCESS OF THE CAMP DAVID MEETING, NONE
IS MORE SO THAN THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. SECRETARY, I WISH TO RESPECTFULLY
REMARK ON ONE PARTICULAR SENTENCE IN YOUR RECENT MESSAGE.
IT READS: 'AS YOU WILL REMEMBER AFTER THE HISTORIC
SECRET

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STEPS OF LAST FALL, A PRINCIPAL REASON THE PEACE NEGO-
TIATIONS VERY SOON RAN INTO TROUBLE WAS THE ACTION TAKEN
WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENTS.'

I AM COMPELLED TO DIFFER. IN CERTAIN QUARTERS THIS WAS
GIVEN AS AN EXCUSE. IT WAS NEVER THE CAUSE. I HAVE
HEARD MANY EXCUSES WHY THE JANUARY TALKS IN JERUSALEM
WERE SO ABRUPTLY SUSPENDED TO YOUR SURPRISE AND MINE,
THE LATEST BEING THE SPEECH MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER
DAYAN AT THE VERY INCEPTION OF THE MEETING.

ALL THIS HOWEVER, BELONGS TO THE PAST. I AM LOOKING
AHEAD TO OUR IMPORTANT CONSULTATIONS IN WHICH WE HAVE
ALL AGREED TO EMBARK FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE.

I SHALL BE GRATEFUL, MR. SECRETARY, IF YOU WOULD BRING
THIS LETTER TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, MENACHEM BEGIN. END TEXT.

2. WE DO NOT PLAN TO RESPOND. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

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